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Civil Procedure, Injury & Tort Law

Cioffi v. Gilbert Enterprises, No. 14-1002

In this personal injury action, plaintiff's challenges the district court's jurisdictional findings following a within-circuit transfer order for the purposes of determining personal jurisdiction. Judgment against plaintiff is affirmed, where: 1) the jurisdictional conclusion never ripened into an actual order of dismissal, but formed a part of the rationale for transferring the action; 2) even if it had ripened, plaintiff did not appeal either the transfer order or the order of dismissal, and appellate review of a transfer order is for abuse of discretion, which plaintiff did not argue; and 3) plaintiff did not present, at a minimum, some developed argumentation addressed to the relevant order, and as such, any potential challenge is deemed waived.

Criminal Law & Procedure

US v. Starks, No. 13-1251

Conviction and sentencing of defendant for being a felon in possession of a firearm is reversed and remanded for an evidentiary hearing, where the district court erred in holding that defendant, as the unauthorized driver of the rental car involved in this case, did not have standing to challenge the stop conducted by a State Trooper.

Constitutional Law, Property Law & Real Estate

Showtime Entertainment v. Town of Mendon, No. 12-2121

In this First Amendment case, defendant-town restricted the building plans, operating hours, and alcohol-licensing of plaintiff, an adult entertainment business. Summary judgment entered in favor of defendant is: 1) reversed in part, where the bylaws regulating size, height, and hours of operation unconstitutionally infringe on plaintiff's right to engage in a protected expressive activity; and 2) certified to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court with respect to the alcohol licensing claim, as it is a close issue of constitutional law.